Carissa Foster Riser

Method’s Trail #3

One of our assignments this month was to think about *diversity* in the classroom; for this Method’s Trail I decided to explore learning styles as it relates to diversity in the classroom. Again I used my mother’s middle school students for this Method’s Trail; as the school year is coming to an end and state testing begins, we felt it would be beneficial for her student’s to have a better understanding of how they learn best. I found a very simple and straight forward “Learning Style Inventory” assessment online; the assessment was a 24 item survey and not timed, we explained to the students to answer each question honestly. I explained that “to gain a better understanding of yourself as a learner, you need to evaluate the way you prefer to learn or process information. By doing so, you will be able to develop strategies which will enhance your learning potential”.

After the students completed their assessments, their individual learning styles where determined and we discussed the differences between the *Auditory, Visual, and Tactile* learner. The results showed a great deal of learner diversity in her classroom. As educators it is our responsibility to create a safe and engaging classroom climate for all learners. It is also necessary to use relevant exercises and simulations to engage students, while connecting students’ experiences and interests. Regardless of students’ preferred learning style, educators must work on developing the student’s ability to reflect and use higher order thinking skills as much as possible.

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/bxb11/LSI/LSI.htm>